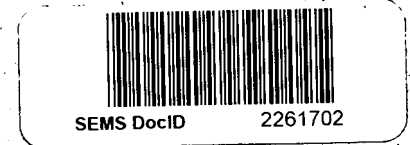


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May 5, 1997

Mr. Stephen D. Jarvela
On-Scene Coordinator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431

Re: United States v. Shaffer Equip. Co., et al.
USDC - SDWV at Beckley
Civil Action No. 5:90-1195

Dear Steve:

I have discussed with Ms. Shaffer the facts you relayed to me concerning the recent breaking and entering of the building at the Minden Site and the request for George Shaffer to secure the gate locks, and the building's locks.

After speaking with Ms. Shaffer, she advised me that she was aware that there had been some arrest at the Minden site and that the police had called her concerning them. She advised the police that she was no longer the owner of the property and that they should contact the sheriff's department due to the reversion of the property to the State of West Virginia. More importantly, she informed me that her son, George, was unable to secure the locks due to damage done at both the gate and the building. Ms. Shaffer informed me that George did not have the proper tools or skills to perform the tasks needed to secure the Minden site.

Consequently, it would be my recommendation that you contact local state authorities to secure the entry gates and the buildings deemed necessary. I do not know the conditions of the locks and cannot represent more than the statements made by Ms. Shaffer concerning facts relayed to her by her son, George.

Should you have any questions concerning the above please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Johnnie E. Brown".

Johnnie E. Brown

JEB/aks